AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

As a preliminary matter, Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner requested that the specification mention reference characters 38, 6A-6N, and 8A-8N. Additionally, Applicant has submitted a replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 1 of the present application which includes reference character 10. Applicant respectfully submits the following replacement paragraphs be included in the present application to mention reference characters 38, 6A-6N, and 8A-8N and to support the replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 1. No new subject matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Please replace the first paragraph of the Detailed Description Section, page 4 lines 5-14, with the following amended paragraph:

> FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an example system 2 in which one or more storage users 8 store data on one or more logical storage spaces provided by NAS storage devices ~~6~~ 6A-6N (collectively, "NAS storage devices 6"). Storage users ~~8~~ 8A-8N (collectively, "storage users 8") communicate with NAS storage devices 6 via network ~~8~~ 10, which may be any communication network such as an Ethernet-based network running TCP/IP, NetBEUI or other communication protocols. NAS storage devices 6 represent self-contained data storage devices that attach directly to network ~~8~~ 10. A NAS storage device 6 may include optical media, individual hard drives, tape drives, and the like, alone or in combination. As described below, NAS storage devices 6 can be dynamically connected to network 8 and incorporated into one or more existing logical storage spaces, such as particular users' folders or directories.

Please replace the second paragraph of the Detailed Description Section, page 4 lines 15-22, with the following amended paragraph:

> NAS master 4 detects the connection of one or more new NAS storage devices 6 to network ~~8~~ 10 and automatically incorporates the additional storage capacity into one or more logical volumes. After incorporating the new storage device 6, NAS master 4

expands the file system to increase the size of the logical storage space to include the additional capacity. This advantageously allows a system administrator to simply connect a NAS storage device 6 to network ~~8~~ 10 when storage space is running low. NAS master 4 automatically incorporates the new device without further intervention from the system administrator.

Please replace the fourth paragraph of the Detailed Description Section, page 4 lines 30 and 31 - page 5 lines 1-11, with the following amended paragraph:

In one configuration, NAS master 4 operates as a host conforming to the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), which is a protocol for dynamically assigning Internet Protocol (IP) addresses to devices on a network, such as NAS storage devices 6 on network ~~8~~ 10. In this configuration, NAS master 4 maintains a pool of IP addresses and assigns IP addresses to NAS storage devices 6 when the devices 6 connect to network ~~8~~ 10. As described below, software executing on NAS master 4 intercepts requests for IP addresses in order to detect the addition of a new NAS storage device 6. In addition to operating as a DHCP server and assigning the new NAS storage device 6 an IP address, NAS master 4 automatically incorporates the additional storage capacity into one or more existing logical storage spaces. Typically, NAS storage device 6 provides NAS master 4 with a unique address, referred to a Universal Unique Identifier (UUID), which is useful in determining whether the storage space provided by NAS storage device 6 has been previously incorporated in a logical storage space.

Please replace the fifth paragraph of the Detailed Description Section, page 5 lines 12-19, with the following amended paragraph:

In another configuration, NAS storage devices 6 operate according to a multi-cast protocol and announce their presence on network ~~8~~ 10. In this configuration, NAS master 4 detects a new device 6 by listening for multi-cast messages from new devices. Upon detecting a new device 6, NAS master queries a table of UUID's to determine whether the device 6 has been incorporated into a logical volume. NAS master 4 and NAS storage

devices 6 may be equipped with Jiro™ management facades that enable integration and implementation of a series of storage policies.

Please replace the seventeenth paragraph of the Detailed Description Section, page 8 lines 1-8, with the following amended paragraph:

After incorporating the incorporate additional storage space in one or more existing logical volumes, NAS management module 30 interacts with file system 22 to expand the file system based on the newly available storage area and adjusted logical volumes (38). For example, in one configuration, NAS management module 30 may make one or more kernel calls to file system 22 to increase the size of an existing logical storage space. In this manner, NAS master 4 automatically detects and incorporates storage capacity of a newly attached NAS storage device into one or more existing single points of storage in a file system.